

1 **STANDING RESOLUTION #5**
2 **2019 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

3
4 **TITLE: Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform (2010, revised 2013, 2016)**
5 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: MFSA, Oregon-Idaho Immigration and Refugee**
6 **Taskforce**

7 **SPOKESPERSON: Claudia Roberts**

8 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 5328 NE 40TH Ave**

9 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: clarobb@juno.com**

10 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503-407-6005**

11 **AMENDED IN YELLOW**, ADD IN **BOLD**, DELETE IN ~~STRIKEOUT~~

12 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: Passed, 24-1-0.**

13
14 **This petition is:**

15
16 **A Replacement of an existing Standing Resolution (rewritten)**

17 **Text of the Standing Resolution as it would appear in the Conference Journal:**

18
19 There have many changes in the Immigration policies since this resolution was reaffirmed in
20 2016. And most of these changes have resulted in a system that is more broken and more
21 brutal than what had been happening. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals has been
22 suspended although those who had already been approved are able to renew their status.
23 Homeland Security implemented a policy of separating children from their parents when families
24 entered the country without permission. We all saw the photos of nursing babies being ripped
25 from their mother's arms when the Zero Tolerance policy was issued. There are still many
26 children, mostly youth that are being held in tent camps and converted warehouses.

27
28 The United Methodist Church has revised its recommendations about how we as individuals,
29 churches and conferences can address the current immigration crisis. This is what they
30 approved:

31 "We call upon all United Methodist churches to engage in the following:

- 32 • advocate for legislation that will uphold the civil and human rights of all migrants in the
33 United States and will provide an opportunity to attain legal status for all undocumented
34 migrants currently in the United States, as well as for those arriving in the future;
- 35 • begin English as a Second Language classes as part of a ministry to migrant communities
36 and advocate for federal and state support of expanded ESL classes;
- 37 • denounce and oppose the rise of xenophobic, racist, and violent reactions against migrants
38 in the United States, and support all efforts to build relationships among people, instead of
39 building walls among diverse ethnicities and cultures;
- 40 • welcome newly arriving immigrants into our congregations;
- 41 • oppose the building of a wall between the United States and Mexico, which the communities
42 of both sides of the border are in opposition to;
- 43 • call the United States government to immediately cease all arrests, detainment, and
44 deportations of undocumented immigrants, including children, solely based upon their
45 immigration status until a fair and comprehensive immigration reform is passed;

- 46 • provide wherever possible pastoral care and crisis intervention to refugees and newly
47 arrived migrants, identifying and responding compassionately to their spiritual, material, and
48 legal needs;
49 • work with civic and legal organizations to support migrant communities affected by harsh
50 immigration laws and over-reaching national security measures;
51 • support those churches that prayerfully choose to offer sanctuary to undocumented migrants
52 facing deportation.” (Book of Resolutions, 3281)
53

54 We are recommending that the Oregon-Idaho conference take action in accordance with this
55 resolution, continuing the current immigrant focused ministries and expanding our response to
56 this human rights disaster.
57

58 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

59 **What will this action accomplish?**

60 This will keep Oregon-Idaho Conference on the problems and needs of immigrants coming to
61 the United States and to our communities. It provides some specific action items that churches
62 could take to show support for immigrants and put pressure on governmental agencies who are
63 enforcing inhumane policies.
64
65

66 **Why is it important?**

67 The Bible is full of stories of migration. Abraham gathered his family and friends and immigrated
68 to Canaan. The Hebrews immigrated to Egypt when their country was experienced drought.
69 They immigrated back to Canaan when they were oppressed and enslaved in Egypt. Joseph
70 and Mary took their son, Jesus, to Egypt when his life was threatened by Herod. Then they
71 immigrated back to Nazareth when the political situation improved.
72 Through out the Bible, we are called to welcome the stranger and treat them as if they were one
73 of our own. (Leviticus 19:33-34). In Hebrews 13:12, it says “Do not neglect to show hospitality
74 to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” And in
75 Matthew, Jesus said “I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” (Matthew 25:35b)
76

77 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

78 This will be carried out by churches, districts, the Conference Committee on Immigrants and
79 Refugees, United Methodist Women and other ministry settings
80

81 **How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?**

82 There are already ministries in place to advocate for and/or help immigrants already in the
83 country. These ministries have their own funding streams. The Committee on Immigrants and
84 Refugees and the Hispanic Ministries Council are supported by conference money set aside for
85 that purpose. It is understood that churches, districts and other ministry will need to develop
86 their own funding. One possible source for new ministries could be a one-time conference
87 Peace with Justice Program grant.
88
89